

Three times wrong

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In recent columns, Walter Williams has reaffirmed his belief in right-wing dogma despite overwhelming historical evidence and logic to the contrary.

The first column in his trilogy claimed that a “quest for ‘social justice’ ” led to the rise of Nazism and Stalinism. In fact, the rise of Hitler followed a failed approach to capitalism, the Weimar Republic in Germany; and the rise of Lenin and Stalin followed the collapse of Kerensky’s Provisional Government in Russia. Hunger and hyperinflation allowed Nazi thugs to gain a foothold in Germany, not some idealistic vision. In Russia, the Bolsheviks leveraged anger at both participation in World War I and the existing (but disintegrating) feudalistic society to grab control. Both new governments were consumed with acquisition of power and imperialistic expansion, not social justice.

In the second, Williams repeats the old Republican myth that the New Deal exacerbated the Depression. During Franklin Roosevelt’s tenure as president, America’s gross national product increased and unemployment decreased every year except one. No amount of right-wing revisionism or repetition by Cato Institute and Heritage Foundation “fellows” to the contrary will change historical fact. Roosevelt proved that democracy can be used to serve all of the people, not just the privileged and powerful.

Finally, Williams faults the Norwegian Nobel Committee for honoring President Obama with the Nobel Peace Prize. He whines about the committee’s lack of fairness because President Reagan was never a recipient. Once again, Mr. Williams should check the history books, this time under the entries for Domsday Clock, Grenada and Iran-Contra.

— DWIGHT POLK

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